THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFLs) consume about one-fifth of electricity for the same light output as compared to incandescent bulb.

(b) The Government has been carrying out and awareness programme, and is now up scaling the awareness campaign to educate general public for use of CFLs to ensure saving of power. The Government of India has announced' Bachat Lamp Yojana' a voluntary Clean Development Mechanism (CDM based CFL scheme. There is a provision in the scheme to leverage CDM revenues to reduce the cost of CFLs in comparison to that of the incandescent lamps to those consumers who choose a more efficient lighting source.

(c) Under "Bachat Lamp Yojana" individual CFL supplier would develop CDM projects. The Government would support the CFL supplier to prepare Small scale CDM project activity Design Document (SSC-CPA-DDs) for their respective project activity area and would also undertake allocation of CERs (Certified Emission Reductions) to the CFL suppliers/ Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) according to their share in emission reductions in a specified period. It is also supporting the monitoring programme.

(d) No time limit has been fixed in this regard, as this scheme is a voluntary coordinated effect of Government/CFL manufacturers and the DISCOMs.

Non collection of Service Tax by CEA

687. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the cases in which Central Electricity Authority (CEA) did not collect service tax of Rs. 62.10 lakh from its clients and ended up as an assessee before the Central Excise;

(b) whether responsibility for the lapse has been fixed and if so, the action taken against those found responsible for the lapse, thereby causing financial loss to the Authority; and

(c) what precautions have been taken to avoid recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) provides consultancy services to various Government/Semi-Government Agencies like State Electricity Boards/Departments of State Governments, etc. as a statutory requirement. As such no service tax was being collected by the CEA from its clients. The Office of Principal Director of Audit, New Delhi had informed in August, 2005 the CEA was liable to pay service tax with effect from 7th July, 1997, which worked out to Rs. 62.10 lakhs for the period October, 1997 to Feb., 2005. The matter was taken up with Ministry of Finance in October. 2005 to exempt CEA from the levy of service tax. Ministry of Finance informed in March, 2006 that the request of CEA could not be acceded to. Accordingly, CEA applied for allotment of Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN), which was allotted on 11.10.2006. A total of Rs. 50.46 lakhs has so far been collected from the clients and deposited in the Service Tax head. Efforts are being made by CEA to collect the remaining service tax for which demand letters have already been sent to concerned Power Utilities of State Governments.

(c) After allotment of TAN number in October, 2006, all the bills raised on account of consultancy charges include specific component of service tax to be paid by the clients and, therefore, the question of non-collection of service tax does not arise.